

8th November 2020

The **Methodist Church** 

South Warwickshire Circuit

Registered charity no. 1154830

Superintendent Minister: Rev Dr Iain Ballard

Maybe it's because I'm the mother to two small, energetic, sparkly eyed humans. I'm always asking what impact will this have on our young people?

As we take this time to remember and mark this day appropriately by taking part in remote social distanced activity, whether that be watching the service on the television, or pausing for the two-minute silence in your home or on your doorstep.

I'm mindful of at least two people in our circuit who were evacuated to Rural Warwickshire during the second world war as children. For some, war was a time of fear and confusion that meant separation from families, the loss of a parent. Children's education often suffered during the war. However, I've also had conversations with others who describe these years as the most exciting and happiest times of their lives. Either way, you couldn't live through it without it having an impact.

I'm uncomfortable with and believe it's completely misleading to make the comparison between the Covid-19 Pandemic to a world war, although I note the similarities of exceptionally high number of deaths, the global economy heading towards a deep recession and governments asking their citizens to make sacrifices. War language simplifies a very complex situation in 2020, and neither does it give the right honour of remembering.

Nevertheless, our children and young people, haven't been able to live through either without it having an impact on their spiritual and emotional wellbeing. How do we protect and nurture the youngest in our society? How do we make sure that every child has the right to freedom, safety, food and education?

My children haven't been inside a church, like many of you, since March of this year. I've been able to talk and pray with them. We read Bible stories at bedtime with grandparents over Zoom/Facetime. We've created online children's church videos which you can find by typing in 'Rev Jemima' into Youtube and watch our second Family worship time which premieres today which is found on the Circuit Youtube Channel.

My prayer is that our children and grandchildren will know the transforming love of God described in Ephesians 3. And I invite you to pray it for our young people also.

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Rev Jemima Strain

Reminder: Dial – a – Prayer, Methodist Church Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514 Listen
to news: 0808 281 2478

Sunday Worship and Daily Prayers

There are plenty of opportunities to join in worship if you have the internet. We are encouraging everyone to link up with the live stream worship being offered by the Birmingham District via FaceBook on the 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings at: <https://www.facebook.com/Birminghammethodistdistrict/live>

Circuit Service

The Circuit continues to provide a pre-recorded service each week, via YouTube, Facebook and our website – see below for details:

Change of YouTube account:

Please note, the Circuit now has its own YouTube account, which means that the URL has changed. Please access the YouTube video by clicking the following link or typing it into your browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzyDSCOYMtQvpCroUvwxjE93MqkTWQomY> If you regularly watch the Circuit Service, do consider subscribing to the Channel.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SW.Methodist/>

Website: www.methodist-swc.org.uk

A full text of this service is available on the website, and is being sent by post to all those people who do not use the Internet so they can join in too. These worship opportunities will be available and sent to you every Sunday. We will be offering worship in a similar way each Sunday as the health crisis continues.

TV & radio opportunities for worship:

Radio 4, Sunday Worship, Sunday 8:10am,

Radio 4 Long Wave, Daily Service, 9.45am Mon-Fri, Radio 3, Choral Evensong, Sunday 3pm.

BBC 1, Sunday Worship, Sunday 10.45am,

BBC 1, Songs of Praise, Sunday 1:15pm

(The times of the TV services can alter, please check the times)

Daily prayers at 10am are led by members of the circuit via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/328494818> All members of the Circuit are invited to join, **you do not need a zoom account to join**. You can also join by **telephone**. Please contact Michael Sharman on 07412 401988 if you'd like help getting in.

TakeTime Meditations: Join us on a five week journey to discover the power of Christian mindfulness meditation. Taketime meditations use your imagination to provide a calm, comfortable space in which to meet God. The meditations run for 5 weeks starting on Thursday 29th October 2020 at 3 pm. Join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87486210132?pwd=ZU0weXQ3cUlXVlBjemt6dElErMjhKQT09> . Please contact Graeme Russell on swc.graemerussell@gmail.com if you would like help getting in.

Pastoral Support

A reminder that if you are in pastoral need of any kind please contact your own Minister direct by email or phone. We may also be able to arrange practical help with shopping and so on. Our details are below.

If in any doubt, please contact Rev Dr Iain Ballard and he will link you up with help locally to you.

Rev Dr Iain Ballard	07368 875790	iain.ballard@methodist.org.uk
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Keep safe. Keep caring. Keep praying. With every blessing to you and yours.

The Ministers and Stewards of the South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit of Churches

